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REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicant's representative thanks Examiner Hoosain for courtesies extended in the telephone conference conducted on May 20, 2005. In accordance with the Examiner kind request, Applicant notes that the Examiner stated that he would review Applicant's amendments to the claims and will contact Applicant's representative to continue the telephone interview prior to issuing a next Office Action in this case.

Claims 1-5, 12, and 32-67 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

Independent Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to define more clearly the features of the present invention.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Claims 12, 37-41, 46-48, 50, 51, 53-60, and 65 stand rejected under 37 C.F.R. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Riskin (U.S. Patent No. 4,817,129). Claims 1-5, 12, 32-35, 37-41, 44, 46-48, and 50-67 stand rejected under 37 C.F.R. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Stern et al. (U.S. Application No. 2004/0132433 A1). Claim 36 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stern in view of Yamakita (U.S. Patent No. 6,366,698). Claims 42, 43, 45, and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stern in view of Hou et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,325,421).

These rejections are respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

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I. STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF THE TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

As mentioned above, Applicant's representative would like to thank Examiner Hoosain for courtesies extended in the telephone conference conducted on May 20, 2005. Applicant submits this Statement to comply with the requirements of M.P.E.P. § 713.04.

In the interview, Applicant proposed amendments to claim 1 to define more clearly and particularly the features of the invention.

In the interview, the Examiner noted that he would be out of the office during the week of May 23, 2005. Therefore, the Examiner kindly requested that Applicant file the Amendment and stated that the Examiner will review the amendments to the claims and will contact Applicant's representative to continue the telephone interview prior to issuing a next Office Action in this case.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended the claims to define more clearly and particularly the features of the claimed invention and respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's representative at the local telephone number set forth below to discuss the present application prior to issuing a next Office Action. Applicant's Representative thanks the Examiner in advance for his kind consideration of this case.

II. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

The claimed invention is directed to an improved calling procedure including a method for connecting a user to a telephone number.

Conventional telephone numbers for North American domestic calling typically consist of seven digits plus a three digit area code. However, a string of seven seemingly random digits is difficult to remember because there is no apparent logical connection between a called party

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and the string of digits that constitutes the party's number. One solution has been to use the alphabet characters listed on the keys of the telephone's keypad to enter mnemonics. However, the availability of possible mnemonics is severely limited because there are only seven digits in the telephone number and more than one letter corresponds to each digit, among other reasons.

Other conventional methods include providing directory assistance to callers. However, this system also has drawbacks because it can be expensive, time consuming, and may require the user to know certain information, such as the full name of the party and/or the city where the party resides, among other things.

The claimed invention (as defined, for example, by independent claim 1), on the other hand, provides a method for an improved calling procedure that is capable of determining an entry modality device from a plurality of entry modality devices, thereby being capable of receiving a phone address, which may include a plurality of numbers, letters, phrases, sounds, handwriting entries, or sequences thereof. Thus, while the claimed invention is capable of receiving conventional seven digit telephone numbers, the claimed invention also is capable of distinguishing between different entry modality devices from a plurality of entry modality devices, such a voice, keypad, telephone keypad, alphanumeric keyboard, and handwriting entry modality devices, and then decoding the phone address of the party being called according to the determined entry modality device (e.g., see specification at page 3, lines 9-14).

Moreover, the claimed invention (as defined, for example, by independent claim 12) is capable of resolving ambiguities between a plurality of parties corresponding to the same phone address, or a restricted party corresponding to one phone address by selecting an ambiguity resolving parameter from a plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters (e.g., see specification at page 3, lines 14-20). That is, the exemplary invention defined by claim 1 is capable of resolving

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ambiguities between a plurality of telephone numbers corresponding to a same phone address
and connecting the caller to one of the plurality of telephone numbers that results from
consulting the reference table and resolving ambiguities.

III. THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

A. Claims 12, 37-41, 46-48, 50, 51, 53-60, and 65 stand rejected under 37 C.F.R. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Riskin. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that there are elements of claims 12, 37-41, 46-48, 50, 51, 53-60, and 65 which are not disclose or suggested by Riskin, and therefore, respectfully traverse this rejection.

In the Response to Arguments, the Examiner alleges that Applicants' "*arguments with respect to 'resolving ambiguities between a plurality of parties corresponding to the same phone address' and others are not directed towards the claims*" (see Office Action at page 7, numbered paragraph 9).

Applicant notes that independent claim 12 has been amended to define more clearly these features of the claimed invention. Thus, for somewhat similar reasons as those set forth in the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 filed on September 20, 2004, which are incorporated herein by reference, and also for the additional features defined therein by the Amendment, Applicants submit that Riskin does not disclose or suggest all of the features of, for example, independent claim 12.

For example, independent claim 12 recites, *inter alia*, a system for determining telephone numbers, including:

a memory including program code stored therein; and
a processor connected to said memory for carrying out
instructions in accordance with stored program code;

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wherein said program code, when executed by said processor,
causes said processor to:

receive from a caller an ambiguous phone address;
determine an entry modality device, from a plurality of
entry modality devices, used by said caller to enter the received phone
address;

decode said received phone address according to the
determined entry modality device;

select an ambiguity resolving parameter from a plurality
of ambiguity resolving parameters;

collect additional information specified by said selected
ambiguity resolving parameter; and

resolve ambiguities between a plurality of telephone
numbers corresponding to a same phone address, using said additional
information and said selected ambiguity resolving parameter; and

connecting the caller to one of said plurality of telephone
numbers that results from said resolving ambiguities (emphasis added).

The claimed invention is capable of decoding the received phone address according to the
determined entry modality device.

The claimed invention also is capable of resolving ambiguities between a plurality of
parties corresponding to the same phone address, or a restricted party corresponding to one
phone address by selecting an ambiguity resolving parameter from a plurality of ambiguity
resolving parameters (e.g., see specification at page 3, lines 14-20), as defined, for example, by
independent claim 12.

Moreover, the claimed invention selects from parameters such as the caller's present
location (e.g., location of the caller, a predetermined radius of a location of the caller, and/or a
latitudinal and longitudinal coordinate of the caller, as defined by dependent claims 39, 40, and
41), the phone number the caller is placing the call from (e.g., as defined by dependent claim 38),
the caller's personal or group ID (e.g., voice print, voice sample, and/or predetermined phrase
that is audibly input by the caller; e.g., as defined by dependent claim 42, 43, 44, 45), and/or the

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caller's response to query (e.g., by asking the caller to respond to a query; e.g., as defined by dependent claim 53), etc.

In comparison, Riskin "*teaches a plurality of collisions (last names with the same numeric strings and multiple occurrences of first names) which are resolved differently by asking a caller for different confirmations*" (see Office Action at page 9, lines 5-8, citing Riskin at column 16, lines 37-56). Riskin merely resolves duplicates (i.e., same first names) and collisions (i.e., two different last names result in the same numeric string) by asking the caller to respond to a query (e.g., see Riskin at Figure 14; see also column 16, lines 37-56).

That is, when a duplicate occurs, the computer asks the caller to confirm the last name, and then asks the caller to enter the first name so that it can differentiate between two duplicates. When a collision occurs, the computer asks the caller for the first name without confirming the last name.

In other words, in Riskin, the ambiguity is resolved only by a single parameter. The single *parameter* consists of asking the caller to respond to a query, such as confirming the name of the party being called.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that there are elements of independent claims 12, 37, and 65 that are not disclosed or suggested by Riskin. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claims 12, 37, and 65.

Moreover, with respect to dependent claims 38-41, 46-48, 50, 51, and 53-60, Applicants submit that Riskin also does not disclose or suggest the novel combination of features defined by these claims.

Indeed, the Examiner has not identified any disclosure in Riskin in which the ambiguity resolving parameters include the caller's present location (e.g., location of the caller, a

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predetermined radius of a location of the caller, and/or a latitudinal and longitudinal coordinate of the caller, as defined by dependent claims 39, 40, and 41), the phone number the caller is placing the call from (e.g., as defined by dependent claim 38), the caller's personal or group ID (e.g., voice print, voice sample, and/or predetermined phrase that is audibly input by the caller; e.g., as defined by dependent claim 42, 43, 44, 45), and/or the caller's response to query (e.g., by asking the caller to respond to a query; e.g., as defined by dependent claim 53).

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that there are elements of claims 12, 37-41, 46-48, 50, 51, 53-60, and 65 which are not disclosed or suggested by Riskin. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

B. Claims 1-5, 12, 32-35, 37-41, 44, 46-48, and 50-67 stand rejected under 37 C.F.R. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Stern. Claim 36 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stern in view of Yamakita. Claims 42, 43, 45, and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stern in view of Hou.

Applicants submit that Stern can be removed as prior art by swearing behind the filing date of Stern.

The Stern application entered the National Stage (parent number PCT/US01/22261) as U.S. Application Serial No. 10/332,889 filed on July 16, 2001, which claims priority from Provisional Application No. 60/218,469 filed on **July 14, 2000**. Stern was published as U.S. Application Publication 2004/0132433A1 on July 8, 2004, and therefore, is available as prior art only under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). The earliest effective prior art date of Stern (which is the filing date of **July 14, 2000** of the Provisional Application from which priority is claimed) is ten months and thirteen days prior to Applicant's U.S. filing date of May 1, 2001.

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However, Stern can be removed by filing a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131.

Accompanying this Amendment is a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 (and Exhibit 1: Invention Disclosure).

The Declaration and attached exhibit clearly evidence a completion of the invention (e.g., a reduction to practice) in a NAFTA or WTO member country before the filing date (e.g., July 14, 2000) of Provisional Application Serial No. 60/218,469 on which U.S. Publication No. 2004/0132433A1 to Stern is based.

In the alternative, Applicant submits that the claimed invention was conceived prior to July 14, 2000 (e.g., as shown by the attached Invention Disclosure (**Exhibit 1**) having a date (now redacted) prior to July 14, 2000) and, coupled with due diligence from a date before July 14, 2000, that the invention was constructively reduced to practice on May 1, 2001. That is, the application and the executed formal papers for the present application were filed in the U.S. Patent Office on May 1, 2001.

The Declaration and attached exhibits clearly show a completion (e.g., a reduction to practice) of the invention in a NAFTA or WTO member country before July 14, 2000, or alternatively, conception of the invention prior to July 14, 2000, and diligence from just before July 14, 2000, to the filing date (i.e., the constructive reduction to practice) of the U.S. Application on May 1, 2001. The executed version of the Declaration will be submitted shortly.

Thus, Stern is removed as prior art and the rejections of claims 1-5, 12, 32-35, 37-41, 44, 46-48, and 50-67 under 37 C.F.R. § 102(e), claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Stern in view of Yamakita, and claims 42, 43, 45, and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Stern in view of Hou, should be withdrawn.

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IV. CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-5, 12, and 32-67, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: MAY 24, 2005

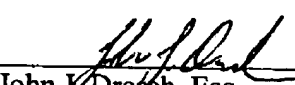

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I certify that I transmitted via facsimile to (703) 872-9306 the enclosed Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 to Examiner Allan Hoosain on May 24, 2005.


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